

The Scholars of Excellence Program is funded by BC Children's Hospital Foundation

1. Program Overview

The *Scholars of Excellence* program provides exceptional individuals an opportunity to generate an innovative and independent research program under the mentorship of world-class researchers based at the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute (BCCHR).

BCCHR is a University of British Columbia (UBC) Senate-approved research institute located at BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre in Vancouver, BC. BCCHR is the largest pediatric research facility in Western Canada with over 200 faculty members whose research areas include cancer, developmental neurosciences, diabetes, nutrition & metabolism, genetics, immunity and infection, reproduction, molecular medicine, health services, global health, and new technologies. For more information, visit <http://www.bcchr.ca>.

The overall goal of this program is to train recent PhDs, MDs and MD-PhD graduates to conduct clinical, translational, or biomedical research in a collaborative, multi-disciplinary environment with intent to develop future leaders in child health research. **The program is designed to attract new talent, and preference will be given to applicants from outside BC.**

Scholars will be encouraged to pursue their own research interests as well as collaborate with other researchers at BCCHR. Within the first two years, scholars are expected to obtain external salary funding as they progress towards an independent research track. The program provides a generous stipend, access to shared research facilities and rigorous mentorship necessary to foster early career development. The program is supported by the Scholars of Excellence Program Advisory Group who provides critical assessment of applications and monitors scholar progress.

Individuals able to conduct independent research with an exceptional track record meeting the eligibility criteria as stated in these guidelines are invited to apply.

2. Eligibility

The applicant:

- is a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or foreign citizen,
- has a PhD, PhD-equivalent, MD, or PhD-MD completed less than two years from award start date* (MD must be from a Canadian degree or eligible for clinical licensing in Canada),
- must **not** hold an academic/faculty position, nor can they be on leave from such a position,
- must **not** be a BCCHR member before award start date (no internal applicants),
- will be appointed as a postdoctoral or clinical fellow at UBC at the time the award is taken up, and
- is mentored by at least one BCCHR member located on the Oak Street Campus.

*Applicants with more than two years post PhD or MD due to a career delay or interruption (family or health reasons), or for dedicated clinical training (residency and/or fellowship) will have their eligibility window extended on a case-by-case basis. Contact resinfo@bcchr.ca for details.

3. **Mentors**

Mentors must be based on the Oak Street Campus and at least one mentor must be a BCCHR Investigator with a productive, health oriented research career able to provide mentorship throughout the duration of the award. Applicants may choose to identify a primary and/or secondary mentor in their application form however during the assessment process the Advisory Group may also suggest mentors for applicants. Applicants who are short-listed will be given an opportunity to present their research at a recruitment visit, providing an additional opportunity to meet potential mentors. Wherever possible, applicants will have two mentors, representing two of the four research pillars (biomedical, clinical, population or health services). Mentoring agreements will be implemented post-award start date and will be monitored by the Advisory Group.

4. **Program Funding**

Stipend

The program provides a salary stipend of \$70,000/annum to award recipients. Stipends will be paid to and administered by the UBC department where the award recipient is appointed. Award recipients will be paid by the university in accordance with its distribution policy. Note that stipends are subject to the Income Tax Act and Regulations of the Government of Canada.

In addition to the stipend, scholars are entitled to receive the following benefits: Extended Health Plan, Dental Plan and Employee and Family Assistance Program.

Award recipients are expected to spend 80% of their time in research training. They may, with the approval of their mentor(s) and the program Advisory Group, engage in and accept remuneration for limited institutional or organizational activities that contribute to their career development, including clinical work.

Award recipients are expected to apply for and accept external (non-BCCHR) salary awards. Scholars who receive external salary awards less than or equal to the value of the BCCHR award will receive a top-up to the full value of the BCCHR award. The remaining funds from the BCCHR award will be available for scholars to use as research operating funds.

Research Budget

A maximum of \$10,000/annum is available to scholars for research support in years 1 and 2. These funds can be used for research supplies, equipment, student support or other research-related expenses. In addition, BCCHR will provide award recipients with research space, and access to shared research personnel, core facilities and equipment required to conduct their research. Scholars will also be eligible to apply for BCCHR research seed grants and for funding to support summer student research projects.

Travel Allowance

A maximum of \$3,000/annum is available to scholars in years 1 and 2 for expenses associated with travel to attend local, national or international meetings/conferences.

Relocation Support

A maximum of \$5,000 is available to cover certain moving expenses incurred by scholars in relocating to Vancouver. These include one-way travel to Vancouver for scholar and dependents, and moving goods from old to new residence.

5. Award Details and Expectations

Start Date

The award may commence between September 2019 and January 2020. Award start dates will commence on the first day of the month.

Duration

The maximum duration of support for the BCCHR Scholar of Excellence Award is five years. Scholars are awarded initially for a two year period. Subsequent funding is contingent on a successful renewal application assessed by the scholar's mentor(s) and Advisory Group.

Teaching and Mentoring Opportunities

Scholars are provided a unique opportunity to contribute to the Research Education Program at BCCHR. This may include developing or facilitating research workshops, producing research training materials and/or mentoring junior research trainees in the Summer Student Research Program.

6. Application Process and Timeline

Applications must be submitted using the application form available on the BCCHR website (www.bcchr.ca/scholars).

The closing date for receipt of a complete application package is **Friday, January 25, 2019**. All application packages must be received by 4:30 pm (PST) on the competition closing date. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

Applicants who are short-listed for the program will be notified in April.

Program inquiries should be directed to resinfo@bcchr.ca.